GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6173
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
DESTRUCTION OF CASURINA TREES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing destruction of Casurina trees in coastal Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to save the Casurina trees from destruction with a view to balance the ecology in those areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) Yes, Sir. Destruction of Casurina trees in the coastal areas of Orissa has been reported.

(b) Destruction of Casurina trees has been mainly due to cylones, heavy biotic pressure as the local inhabitants are entirely dependent on Casurina plantations, use of Casurina saplings by floating population of fishermen for cooking and fishing purposes, smuggling by miscreants and inadequate infrastructure for forest protection.

(c) Steps taken by the Orissa Forest Department to save the Casurina trees include:

(i) Constitution of Van Samrakhyana Samitis for protection of coastal plantations.

(ii) Setting up of wireless stations for immediate communication to combat smuggling.

(iii) Frequent patrolling along the sea coast.

(iv) Organising awareness campaigns for the local inhabitants to save the coastal plantation areas from encroachment, felling and smuggling of trees. People are also being encouraged to use kerosene, LPG and solar energy instead of fuelwood.

(v) Raising of Casurina plantations in coastal areas to balance the ecology of the area.